

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Aquatic Resources
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

March 11, 2010

Board of Land
and Natural Resources
Honolulu, Hawaii

Request for Approval to Add Federal Funding (\$52,000) and Extend through FY11
BLNR/RCUH Contract No. 52851 for the Division of Aquatic Resources' Ulua Tagging Project

Submitted herewith for your consideration is a request to amend/extend an existing Project Agreement (Contract No. 52851) between the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) and the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH). Amendment No. 6 will add funding and allow continuation of the project from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. This project provides data in support of the Division of Aquatic Resources' (DAR) mission for management of the State's fishery resources. Amendment No. 6 provides \$52,000 in federal funds from a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sport Fish Restoration grant; no State General Funds are being used.

The Amendment will allow continuation of RCUH's services in implementing the project. RCUH's assistance is required in order for the DAR to meet project goals and objectives in a timely way.

The Ulua Tagging Project, which began on September 1, 2004, is a statewide volunteer angler-based fish tagging project. In FY11, the project will focus on tagging larger jacks in order to determine their growth rates and to monitor their travel. Volunteer anglers will capture, tag and release all the marine fish species known as ulua and papio. It is estimated that data from approximately 2,800 volunteer anglers (an estimated 1,350 tagged fish), which will be added to the current database for analysis of abundance and size class recruitment patterns for the year. Analysis will continue on the data collected thus far and be assessed by species to determine growth, movement and other parameters that can be applied toward management strategies for these species. In addition to tagging, age and maturity studies will be conducted, which will include the collection of gonads and otoliths from ulua/papio across the State. Information from this project will help develop sound management alternatives for this fishery.

The ulua and papio species account for the biggest recreational fishery in the state. With increasing demand, the supply of these fishery stocks may become jeopardized, and thus there is a need to promote management of the fishery.

Amendment No. 6 to the Project Agreement is currently being prepared for submission to the Attorney General's Office for preliminary approval as to form. Also, Governor's approval to amend and extend the contract is being requested concurrently, through the Department of Budget and Finance for review and approval. DAR is aware that implementation of Amendment No. 6 is dependent upon receipt of all required approvals.

RECOMMENDATION:

"That the Board authorize the Chairperson to negotiate and, subject to necessary approvals, amend/extend a Project Agreement (Contract No. 52851) with the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii for FY 11."

Respectfully submitted,



DAN POLHEMUS
Administrator

APPROVED FOR SUBMITTAL:



LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson